



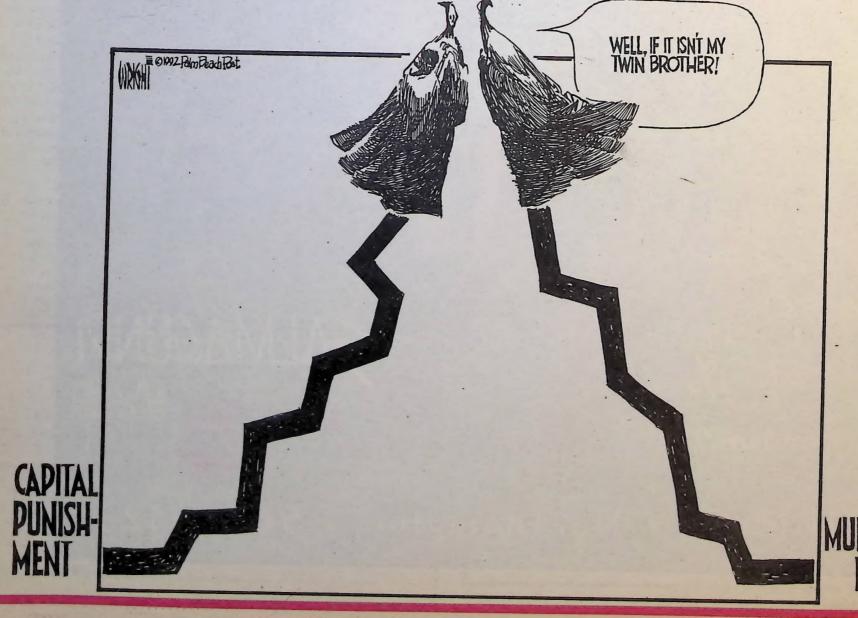
EPISODE # 65 June 11, 1992

FREE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY, CALVIN & HOBBES, VIEWS OF THE WORLD, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN, EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME, JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD, THIS MODERN WORLD, LOCAL HEROES

STORIES: DAN STRAIGHT TO SUMMIT UP HAITI CRIMES WHO IS THIS GUY?

Survey Winners: P. 11



MURDER

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by Mike Chrisman

Newspaper readership is down. Everybody knows this. Nobody reads magazines either. And nobody's watching the major networks. Even the November presidential election is barely gonna be covered by the bigs. But hey, I'm in the newspaper biz, so the newspaper biz is what I care about. Listen to this: in a 1965 Gallup Poll, 71% of all adult Americans had read a newspaper the previous day. In 1990, 34% had. Things are so bad that between 1983 and 1988 (morning in America, remember?), almost every month another American newspaper went out of business without being replaced.

I think this is terrible news for a nation founded with a free press and its partner in crime, the First Amendment. The good news is, I have a solution. It'll take some serious agreement among a bunch of people who usually won't collaborate on anything riskier than how much money to put in the office football pool, but it would definitely get people reading the papers again.

All the press has to do - from Portland to Peoria to the Potomac - is agree they're not gonna take any more BS from the government - not states, not towns, not Washington DC itself.

See, that's the first part of the story: Eds. & Reporters Say "Truth Time." People would buy papers just to see what that's about.

But the real interesting twist is when the President comes out and starts to talk some campaign la-dee-dah, and a reporter says, "Yes, but Mr. President, what about how you were in the administration that gave Saddam Hussein all that money so he could buy weapons?" Then the President says, "We had no knowledge that Saddam was using our 'humanitarian' aid to buy weapons." Can't you just hear him? Then the next reporter says, "As Vice-President you had the whole scoop on the S & L crisis, including Silverado, where your son Neil worked. What about that?" And the Prez says, "That ground's already been covered." Then the next reporter says, "Mr. President, please answer the other reporters' questions." And the Prez says, "Thank you, that's all for today."

And what happens next changes the course of America history. Because en masse the reporters start shouting, "Tell the truth! Tell the truth!" Somebody hollers, "Executive privilege, horsepuckey! Tell the truth!" Then it's a babble of voices, crying out, "...and we're gonna badger you and and hound you and do other stuff that has animal names in it until you start talkin' straight! We're not gonna print no more BS! No newspaper in America is gonna carry a word of what the administration in Washington says until you level with the American people. Not a word. Do you understand that? No rose garden photo ops; no script readings at elementary schools; no phone chats with the Super Bowl coach! No campaign speeches! NO FOREIGN POLICY SPEECHES!! The American people will simply not read your words unless you're speaking the truth! What have we got to lose? We're not sellin' papers anyway!"

Luckily this press conference is carried live on satellite around the world, so all of humanity knows what went down. And the whole world buys up unprecedented numbers of newspapers and (I've gotta admit) watches an unprecedented amount of TV news to find out what's shakin' in America, where they're tryin' to reclaim their heritage. A heritage, which surprised Americans are discovering, that's at least as much about democracy and the voice of the people as it is about unrestrained capitalism and raw power. Maybe more. In fact, millions of Americans are daring to hope (as the press vanks that curtain off that little booth where the government is frantically cranking out illusions), maybe lots more.

The Valley Comic News

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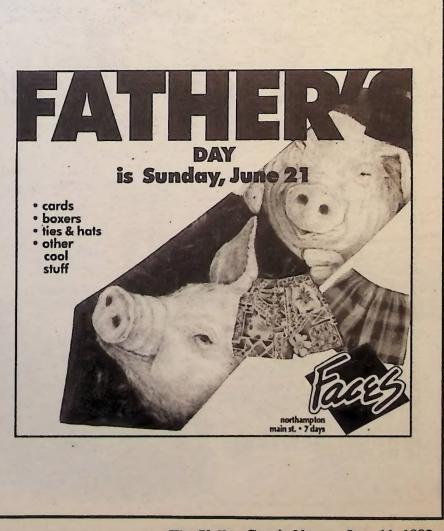
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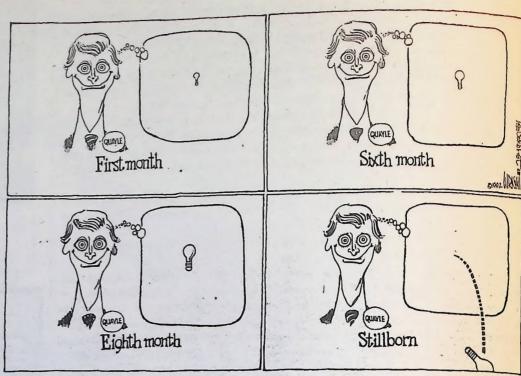
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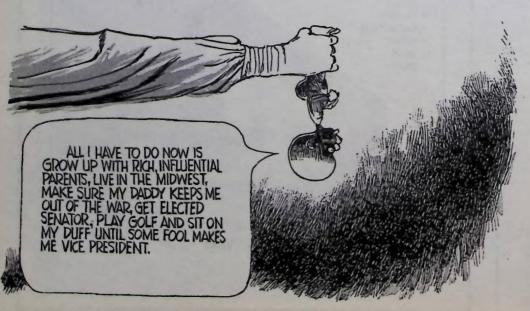
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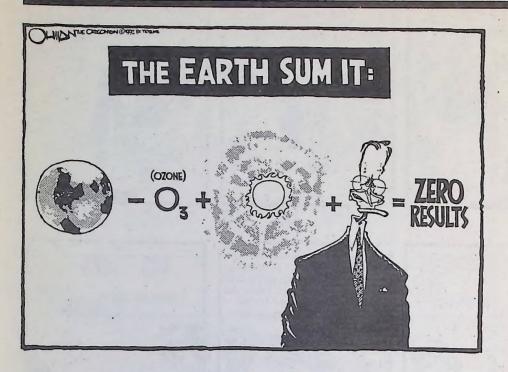








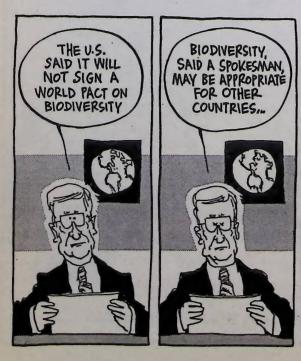
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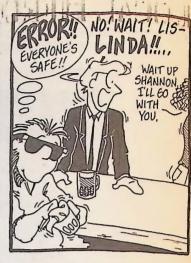


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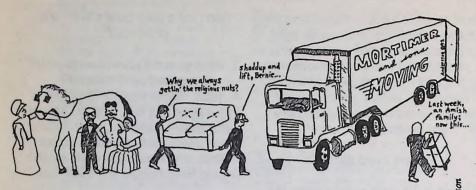
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THE MOVERS AND THE SHAKERS

THINK'R

WERE LOOKING FOR A FEW STRAIGHT











The Valley Comic News • June 11, 1992 7

"Elderly women would serve better than elderly men in high office." So avers a medical researcher who says, "The blood vessels of women do not narrow as swiftly with age as do the blood vessels of men. So the blood supply to the brains of women is better maintained over a longer time."

An observer insists the bean stalk always climbs the bean pole from right to left.

If you were born in 1924, you came into this world the same year Caesar Cardini of Tijuana, Mexico, invented Caesar salad.

Softball originally was designed to be played indoors. First such contest of record was inside Chicago's Farragut Boat Club — 1887.

Something else Sylvester Graham claimed about his invention, the Graham cracker, was that it dulled lust. Maybe that was a selling point back then.

It's the youngsters between 2 and 12 who are most likely to get carsick.

A Princeton professor reports the clam is sexually active all of its life. Other clam experts say they can figure out the age of a clam by checking its shell's growth rings. They now know many a clam lives 150 years.

It was in a 1980 decision that the U.S. Supreme Court formally ruled that the game of basketball is a contact sport.

"Averaging" can kick out some pretty stunning statistics. Take the National Association of Police Organizations' report on averages of criminals' sentences: For burglary, 5.4 days. For auto theft, 3.8 days. For murder, 2.3 years.

No, it's not out of the question for an iceberg to last 225 years.

The Chinese invented the wheelbarrow in the First Century B.C., and immediately made it a military secret.

Do you remember the rain in "Singing in the Rain"? The movie makers put milk in the water so you could see the raindrops.

The farther apart the dominoes, the faster they fall.

Even as some medical technicians are called paramedics and certain legal technicians are listed as paralegals, so, too, are a number of optometry technicians known as paraoptimetrics. I haven't run across any paraplumbers, parapainters or parapreachers. No parareporters, either.

Gophers avoid daffodils.

Report is the most popular name for 7-year-old girls nation-wide is Ashley.

Something else first devised by Benjamin Franklin was crop insurance.

You know why the "living room" came to be so called? Before 1910, funerals frequently were held in parlors of larger homes. The Ladies Home Journal editors decided that gave parlors a bad image. So they repeatedly referred to the parlor thereafter as the "living room." And funeral arrangers built parlors of their own.

The middle initial of Michael J. Fox is really A. He figured too many people might write his name with a comma after the Michael, so he changed it.

Don't eat a polar bear's liver. It's poisonous.

Q. What year did power lawnmowers first outsell push mowers?

A. 1953. Same year the structure of DNA was figured out. And the Korean War battles stopped. Josef Stalin died. Both TV Guide and Playboy started. And everybody went around singing "That Doggie in the Window."

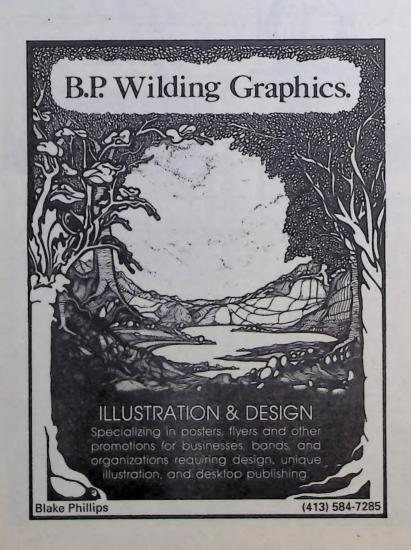
When your great granddad bought his car — before 1909 — he had to pay extra for the optional windshield.

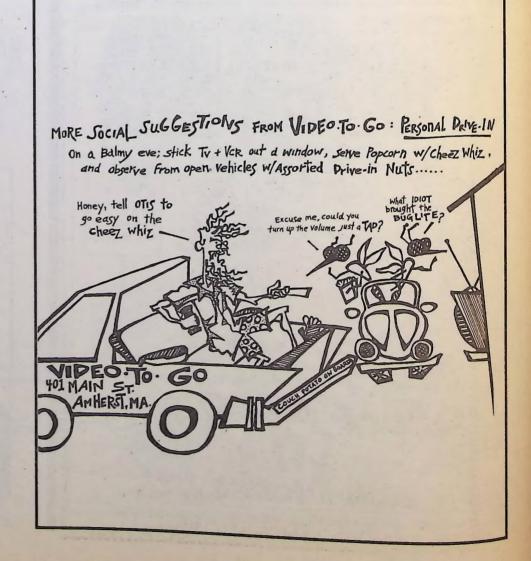
Am now told Barbie Doll's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Q. I've read that 75 percent of the population would have no idea how I did it if I said I'd once broken my arm trying to start my car. So how'd I do it?

A. Twenty-five percent of the population would tell me that I was trying to turn over the engine with a hand crank, and the crank kicked back on me.

Remember, it was the Etruscans, not the Romans, who invented Roman numerals.





Civil war, drought, and despotism have created a measure of human suffering not seen in so many areas of the planet since the end of World War II. The international community has yet to respond to repeated warnings by relief agencies that massive starvation is imminent in areas of southern and western Africa which are in the grip of the worst drought this century. Renamo rebels fighting a 15year civil war in Mozambique have captured or destroyed the meager supplies that have been sent to the interior of that ravaged nation. An estimated 20 million people are at risk of starvation from the arid Horn of Africa to the usually fertile bread baskets of the south.

Across the former Yugoslav republic, and in Armenia and Azerbaijan, ethnic and religious conflict has displaced hundreds of thousands of people, while many others remain trapped in its seemingly senseless savagery. Wildlife and domestic animals also have suffered greatly

since the fighting began.

An international trade embargo has failed to dislodge a military dictatorship in Haiti responsible for a reign of terror that forces many of its citizens to risk their lives on the high seas in order to escape unbearable living conditions. The almost entirely deforested and culturally decimated nation can only be described as a living hell.

Wildfires

At least 11 blazes blackened 4,000 acres of parched grasslands and forest in Florida from the panhandle to the keys.

Volcano

Seismologists believe that further rumblings from beneath eastern Indonesia's Mount Karangetang volcano indicate that the mountain is in a volatile state and an immediate threat to nearby residents. On May 18, a fiery eruption killed six people and injured dozens of others.

Rampage

Elephants and wild pigs destroyed 200 acres of vital maize and millet crops in western Tanzania after they stam-peded through seven villages in

search of food. This, and a previous elephant rampage in the suburbs of Tabora, are being blamed on the prolonged drought in the region.

Flooding

Rising floodwaters from the Paraguay River have left as many as 40,000 families homeless in the capital, Asuncion, and threaten to swamp the government palace. Several weeks of relentless downpours have kept the river overflowing its banks in central Paraguay and parts of northeast Argentina.

Floods in six provinces of Ecuador have renewed a cholera epidemic that has already claimed 12,700 lives in that country. The National Civil Defense Command disclosed that hundreds of cases of dengue fever and malaria have also been spread by the May floods.

4.6 6.9 4.5 -93° South Pole Antarctica For the week ending May 29, 1992

Late Chill

A late-spring cold snap put a shiver through farmers in the Canadian Prairies and American Midwest, but agronomists were confident that most crops wouldn't be harmed by the record-breaking chill. In Kansas, farmers were worried about their winter wheat crop, corn, and soybeans after overnight low temperatures dipped as low as 24 degrees.

Additional Sources: British Broadcasting Cor-poration, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World rological Organization

Earthquakes

Forty people were injured and 100 buildings damaged when a strong quake struck eastern Cuba. A sharp tremor jolted central New Zealand, disrupting telephone and transport services, and causing some damage in Nelson. Earth movements were also felt in the Virgin Islands, northern Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador, the northern Philippines, Greece, the Solomon Islands, the Aleutian Islands, and the Alaskan Peninsula.

Guard Frogs

An English pet-shop owner has offered a solution to homeowners looking for the security of a guard dog without the responsibility - a frog that barks. The tiny green and yellow amphibian, from Kiribati and Tuvalu, the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands in the Pacific, has been a sellout for a shop in Sunderland, northeast England. "They bark as loud as a dog, but cost a lot less to feed," the shop owner insists. "A two-pound bag of crickets will last them a whole month."





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special landmark -- then send us a copy of the picture,

and if it's a good one, we'll print it!!!

Piece of cake.

THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

05-27-92 TOM TOMORROW

TOM TOMORROW

Land of the back that the diameter

INSIDERS ARE WELL AWARE THAT SINCE 1977, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO SHIFT MUCH OF THE TAX BURDEN IN THIS COUNTRY FROM THE RICH TO THE POOR... UNFORTUNATELY, VOTERS TEND TO BECOME VERY UPSET BY FACTS LIKE THIS...

in the news tonight--the president has called for a Tax increase to help fur-ther subsidize wealthy (orporations!



TO ERASE ANY LINGERING DOUBTS, HE MUST THEN RATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM AWAY--PREFERABLY WITH THE HELP OF SOMEONE LIKE PEGGY NOONAN...

ANYWAY, EVEN IF THERE IS A SLIGHT DIS-PARITY...IT ALLOWS THE RICH TO INVEST IN OUR ECONOMY... SO THAT 600D, DECENT, EVERYDAY AMERICANS CAN SIT DOWN WITH THEIR LOWING FAMILIES AFTER A TIRING BUT SATISFYING DAYS WORK AND ENJOY A SIM-PLE BUT NOURISHING MEAL SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT BLAH BLAH BLAH

WHEN THEY DO, A POLITICIAN MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO OBFUSCATE THE ISSUE WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF MEANINGLESS STAT-

ON A SIMPLISTIC LEVEL IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE RICH PAY FEWER TAXES. BUT THESE CHARTS AND GRAPHS CLEARLY PROVE THIS ISN'T TRUE...



BY THIS TIME, MOST VOTERS WILL HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT COM-PLETELY-- AND THE REAL BUSINESS OF POLITICS CAN CONTINUE UNFETTERED...

A GIANT CAMPAGN CANTRIBUTION - FOR ME? OH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!

SAY, HOW WOULD YOU FELLAS LIKE ANOTHER TAX BREAK?

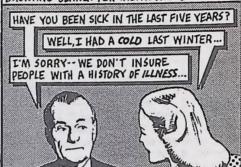


CITIZENS WHO WORK FOR LARGE CORPORATIONS GENERALLY DON'T HANE TO GIVE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE MUCH THOUGHT...

...I HAD A HEADACHE ... SO I WENT IN FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING!

WHAT HAPPENED? THE DOCTOR SAID TO TAKE SOME ASPIRIN!

THE SELF-EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED MUST EITHER DO WITHOUT INSURANCE *ENTIRELY* OR FACE THE DAUNTING SEARCH FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE...



THOSE WHO WORK FOR SMALLER EMPLOYERS PROBABLY HAVE AN HMO PLAN THAT (AN BE SOMEWHAT MORE INCONVENIENT...

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING, SIR...WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AVAILABLE A YEAR FROM NEXT THURSDAY.



THE LUCKY FEW WHO DO FIND AN INSURANCE COMPANY WILLING TO WRITE THEM A POLICY MUST THEN FIND A WAY TO PAY FOR IT...

WELL...I MAY HAVE TO CUT BACK ON A FEW THINGS...LIKE FOOD...AND RENT...





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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Three months ago I wrote a column about AIDS that has brought me the goldangdest mail I've ever gotten in my life. And that's saying a lot, because I'm the kinda guy who routinely gets mail that starts out, "Dear Midget-Brained Jerk."

The column was about the selfrighteous holy rollers who still believe
that AIDS is some kind of message from
God. And at the end of the column, I said
that, yes, it probably is a message from
God. It's God trying to show us how
mean a healthy man can be to a sick
man.

For once in my life, I thought I'd written a column that was beyond controversy. Except for a few Appalachian preachers from incest families, who in the world could possibly object to a plea to spend more money on AIDS, give more money to AIDS sufferers, and start treating it like the epidemic that it is? We licked polio in about ten years, I said. It's already been ten years on AIDS, and we haven't even started.

And the letters poured in. A lot of themwere from AIDS sufferers, thanking me. But an equal number were from people who were disappointed in me!

And the scary thing was that these weren't crackpots or weirdos. In many cases they were friends. They were people who have written to me for years, people I've traded jokes with, talked politics with. They've come backstage at shows. And that's the only

reason I'm gonna take the time to answer the letters. Here are the things they wanted me to know:

1. Heart disease and cancer kill more people each year than AIDS. This was a recurring theme in almost every letter. And their point was that we should spend more money on heart disease and cancer, but we actually spend more money per dead person on AIDS:

I saw so many different sets of statistics that I can't say for sure whether this is true or not, but let's assume that it is true. I still say the emphasis of the government should be on AIDS. First of all, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society are two of the largest United Way Agencies, so there's an enormous fund of private donations that go toward these diseases. Second, AIDS is a new disease. Of course it's going to need more money. We already know many of the causes of cancer and heart disease, so it's easier to know where to spend money on those ailments. AIDS is still a blind alley. It takes massive amounts of money to explore all the avenues. I would think this would be easy to see.

I happen to know of a recent case in which a young man died of AIDS, but for some reason the newspaper obituary said "Memorials should be donated to the American Heart Association." It turned out that the man's family had made this request, to cover up the fact that the man had AIDS. Good grief.

At least the cancer and heart charities don't have to fight that hard for funding.

2. AIDS can't be compared to polio, because the people who got polio "didn't do anything to get it." I'm quoting from a letter here. Other letters spoke of "bad habits" and "lifestyle decisions" that led to AIDS.

Offhand, I can't think of a single bad habit or lifestyle decision that should be punishable by death. If these letters are referring to needle users, then they're talking about weak people who are to be pitied. If they're talking about gay men, then they seem to be saying that, when you have sex, you've got to expect that something like this could happen.

I can't believe that they mean this, but then again, I can't think of anything else they might mean.

As an aside, we now know that heart disease and cancer are often the result of "bad habits" and "lifestyle decisions." But when you have a heart attack or develop cancer, nobody comes around saying, "See there, it's what you deserve for eating all that cholesterol." Surely everyone can see that AIDS is treated differently.

3. People can't be expected to give money to AIDS charities if they don't have any friends or family members who have died of AIDS.

What the hell is the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethonthen? Isn't it 99 percent of the public that's not exposed to MD giving money to the one percent that is? Isn't this the American way, for the person that can walk to help out the person who can't?

4. We can't solve all the world's problems. Life is not fair. People get sick and die Insert your own cliche.

Statements like this, I'm afraid, are the form cruelty most often takes:

There's nothing to be done, so let's do nothing.

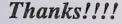
This is not America. America doesn't say "We can't do anything." America says "Let's fix it."

5. "The column disturbed me, Joe Bob, because you seemed so angry. it wasn't like you. You must have had some personal motive for writing that."

I'm like Kojak. Dead bodies make me angry.

I can't believe there are Americans who see a killer disease sweeping across the country and feel that,"Oh, well, whatever happens, happens." But if this is what America has become, then it's a sickness of its own. If this is what we are, then we have an epidemic on our hands much worse even than AIDS.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get Joe Bob's world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT 1992 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



Lots and lots and lots of you returned our survey.

We're still collating them, and we really, really, really,



appreciate your taking time to do them.

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Pleasant St. Video -- membership & 3 free movies -- Laurel Mittenthol

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The Mercantile -- \$25 gift certificate -- Julie Warner

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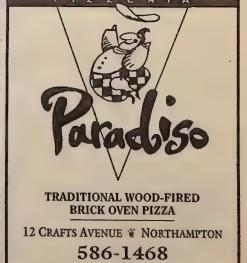


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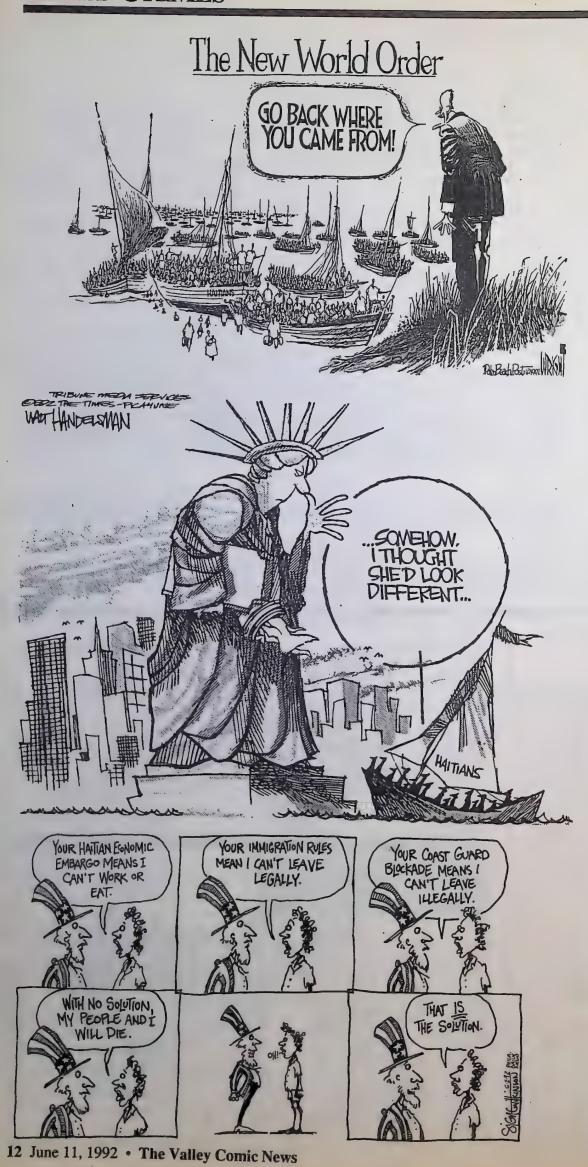
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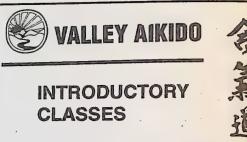
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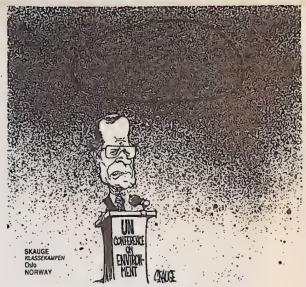
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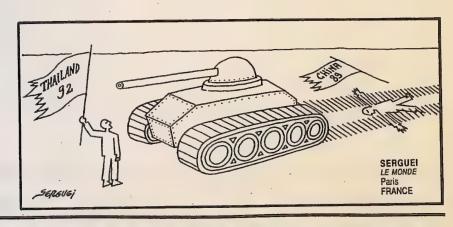


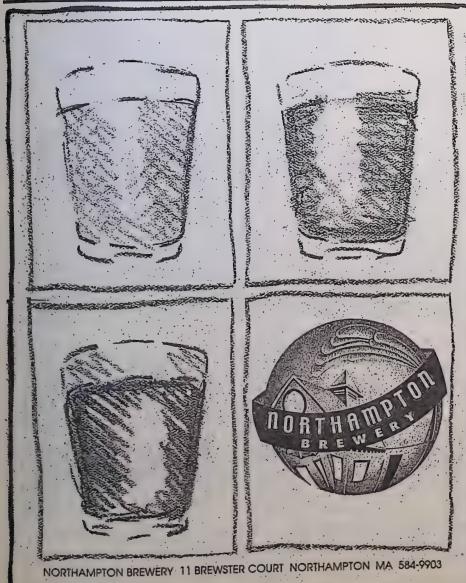






PALOMO LA JORNADA Mexico City MEXICO













Some wolves, their habitat destroyed and overwhelmed by human pressures, turn to snorting quack.

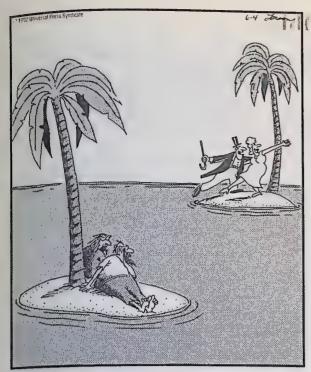


High above the hushed crowd, Rex tried to remain focused. Still, he couldn't shake one nagging thought: He was an old dog and this was a new trick.

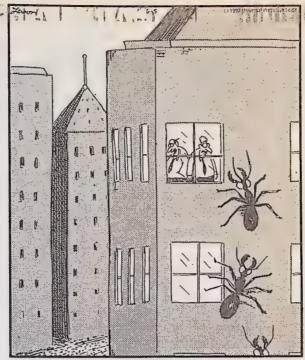


"Look here, McGinnis — hundreds of bright copper kettles, warm woolen mittens, brown paper packages tied up with string ... Someone was after a few of this guy's favorite things."





"Well, there they go again. The Stenbergs are always acting like life is one big musical."



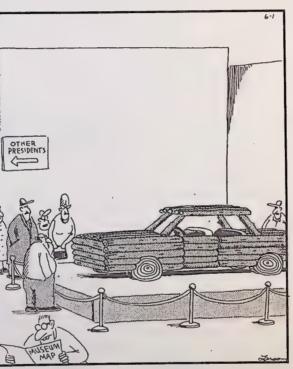
"Look at the hordes down there, Phil. ... Have I ever told you what they look like? Huh?... Have I?"



"Curse you, Flannegan! Curse you to hell!...there, I've said it."



Abraham Lincoln's first car





The Headless Horsefamily



"Chief say 'Someone ... here ... walk ... through ... buffalo ... field."



"OK, everyone just stand back! . . . Anyone see what happened here?"



The Valley Comic News • June 11, 1992 15

My dad started a newspaper called "The Valley Pessimist." For the very first issue all the advertising was in, the editorials written, the photos cropped, and the articles complete. It was all set to roll. On the way to the printer he had second thoughts... "It'll never work." So he scrapped the project.

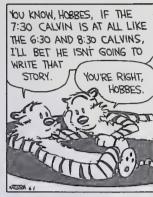
Now, he's thinking about a new publication called "The Valley Procrastinator." He'll start it in a couple of weeks.

I love my dad. He's a real mover and a shaker.

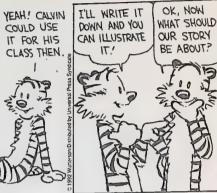


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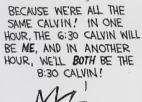








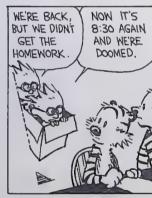


























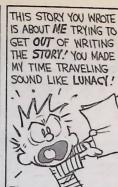








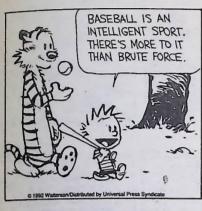




















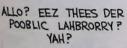




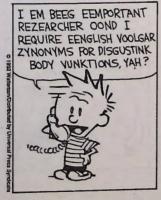




























humor me by Izzy Gesell

This country has lost its way, and the direction home offered by the people in power is toward the "Family Values" of the 50's. This "Nick at Night" domestic policy fails to consider that it was exactly these values that got us into this mess in the first place. Our political, economic and social systems are so out of control that an emperor with no clothes on is being seriously considered as our next leader. We, THEAMERICANPEOPLE, know what we don't want (politics as usual, the greed of the 80's, to be the world's policeman, to spend more for anything that we personally cannot immediately benefit from). Our quandary is that we don't know what we do want. Obviously, we are a country that needs help; but how does a geo-political entity get the emotional assistance it needs? It's not like a country could go to a support group...or could it?

(Fade in to a crowded, smoky, basement rec room under the UN. The conversation buzz in the room drains to silence as SAM, a tall, stooped, white-haired man approaches the podium. He places a Styrofoam cup in front of him).

SAM: Hello. My name is Sam but you can call me Uncle. I am here because I'm tired of constantly focussing on the problems of others while ignoring my own needs. For the past 100 years I've always felt better trying to fix other countries' troubles, and it's gotten to the point where my life is falling apart. My family is disintegrating, my citizens are at each other's throats and my manifest destiny extends no further than the bottom of this coffee cup.

(SAM pauses to sip from the cup and take a deep breath).

I acknowledge that I am powerless overothers. I have no business telling the Japanese how many American cars to buy or the Former Soviet Union how to become a clone of myself through the use of monetary incentives. And if the Cubans want Fidel, hey, they're a grown-up country.

The United States Constitution is a power greater than myself. I've decided to turn my life over to that document to restore my sanity.

Taking a moral inventory, I've finally recognized the duplicity and material greed that forms the basis of my scruples. For too long, my morality has been based on what was good for General Motors. The time has come for me to take a moral stand based on what's good for Ben & Jerry's.

Admitting the exact nature of my wrongs would take too much time from this meeting. A detailed computer print-out, broken down by geographic region, political party and historical time period is available at the front door. An audio tape, not sold in record stores, is also available.

Having the defects of my character removed wasn't as simple as I'd hoped. I wanted it done at Bethesda Naval Hospital but was refused because I don't have health insurance. How can I afford insurance when I'm trillions in debt? I ended up at DC General Hospital and waited hours to see a doctor. Couldn't believe how many people lacked insurance. Who knew things were this bad?

(SAM reaches into his hat and unrolls a scroll of paper that is yards long).

I've made a list of those I have harmed and am now willing to make amends. Next week I'll be in Grenada, Nicaragua, and a Kurdish village in Iraq. When I return, I'll meet with Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, Afro-Americans, working-class Americans, depositors in failed Savings & Loans, and women and children of all ages. My first appointment is with Anita Hill.

Also...never mind. Thanks for listening. I pass.

DONES TRUDEAU

















































































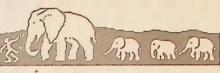








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